

Amendments to the Claims:


This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A method for the attachment of a graft of a natural tendon or ligament to a bone of a patient, comprising the steps of:

- a) forming a hole in said bone;
- b) disposing at least a portion of the graft in said hole; ~~and~~
- c) providing a fixation screw device having an exterior threaded surface configured to directly engage the natural tendon or ligament of the graft during insertion of said fixation screw device into said hole; and

 e) d) threadably inserting said a fixation screw device into said hole so that as said fixation screw device advances into said hole the exterior threaded surface of the fixation screw device engages the natural tendon or ligament of the graft and presses the natural tendon or ligament of the graft directly and firmly against a sidewall of said hole in said bone sufficiently to firmly secure said graft in said hole.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The method set forth in claim 18, wherein a second bone is adjacent to said bone, and further including the steps of:

- a) forming a second hole in said second bone;
- b) disposing a second portion of the graft in said second hole; ~~and~~
- c) providing a second fixation screw device having an exterior threaded surface configured to directly engage the natural tendon or ligament of the graft during insertion of said second fixation screw device into said second hole; and


e) d) threadably inserting a said second fixation screw device into said second hole so that as said second fixation screw device advances into said second hole the exterior threaded


surface of the second fixation screw device engages the natural tendon or ligament of the graft and presses the natural tendon or ligament of the graft directly and firmly against a sidewall of said second hole in said second bone sufficiently to firmly secure said graft in said second hole.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method set forth in claim 18 wherein said method is used for the reconstruction of an anterior cruciate ligament of a patient and said bone is a femur in the patient, and further comprising forming said hole from a suitable point in an intercondylar notch in said femur anteriorly and laterally.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method set forth in claim 19 wherein said method is used for the reconstruction of an anterior cruciate ligament of a patient and said bone is a femur in the patient, and said second bone is a tibia in the patient; and

further comprising forming said hole from a suitable point in an intercondylar notch in said femur anteriorly and laterally, and forming said second hole through the tibia and open at one end adjacent a medial spine of the tibia.

 Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method set forth in claim 18, in which the fixation screw device is cannulated.

 Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method set forth in claim 18, in which the fixation screw device has a screw thread which is devoid of an outermost cutting line.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method set forth in claim 18, in which the fixation screw device has a hemispherical head at the trailing end thereof.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method set forth in claim 18, in which the fixation screw device has a screw thread which is substantially nontapered.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method set forth in claim 19, in which the second fixation screw device is cannulated.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method set forth in claim 19, in which the second fixation screw device has a screw thread which is devoid of an outermost cutting line.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method set forth in claim 19, in which the second fixation screw device has a hemispherical head at the trailing end thereof.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method set forth in claim 19, in which the second fixation screw device has a screw thread which is substantially nontapered.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 for the reconstruction of an anterior cruciate ligament of the patient, wherein forming the hole includes

forming the hole in a femur from a suitable point in an intercondylar notch in said femur anteriorly and laterally; and

the natural tendon or ligament of the graft is pressed directly and firmly against the sidewall of said hole in said femur, the fixation screw device being cannulated and having a screw thread which is devoid of an outermost cutting line and is substantially nontapered, the fixation screw device having a hemispherical head at an end thereof.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The method set forth in claim 30 further including the steps of:

- a) forming a hole in a tibia through the tibia and open at one end adjacent a medial spine of the tibia;
- b) disposing a second portion of the graft in said tibia hole; and

c) providing a second fixation screw device having an exterior threaded surface configured to directly engage the natural tendon or ligament of the graft during insertion of said second fixation screw device into said tibia hole; and

⇒ d) threadably inserting a said second fixation screw device into said tibia hole so that as said second fixation screw device advances into said tibia hole the exterior threaded surface of the second fixation screw device engages the natural tendon or ligament of the graft and presses the natural tendon or ligament of the graft directly and firmly against a sidewall of said tibia hole sufficiently to firmly secure said graft in said tibia hole, the second fixation screw device being cannulated and having a screw thread which is devoid of an outermost cutting line and is substantially nontapered, the second fixation screw device having a hemispherical head at an end thereof.

---